CDPM
DOCUMENTAÇÃO
TL 1413
4/90

tapol
The Indonesia Human Rights Campaign
111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW, UK. Tel: 01 771 2904 Fax 01 653 0322
Honorary President: Lord Avebury; Honorary Treasurer: Tom Soper; Organising Secretary: Carmel Budiardjo

14 March 1990

His Excellency,
Ambassador Antonio Vaz Pereira,
Portuguese Embassy,
12 Belgrave Square,
London W1

Dear Ambassador Pereira,

I would like first of all to thank you for the invitation to attend the reception at your Embassy last night. I very much appreciate the fact that you rendered this honour to our guests from the East Timor National Convergence.

Last night, I formulated a question to you about the attitude of the British Government in a rather 'undiplomatic' way. But what I would like to convey is our confusion at the fact that the British Government, when asked about their attitude on East Timor, always states its support for bilateral negotiations between Indonesia and Portugal under UN auspices, whereas UN Resolution 37/30 states quite clearly that the Secretary-General was asked to consult 'all parties directly concerned' which must surely involve representatives of the East Timorese people.

The need to include the East Timorese people in the consultations is also clear in the resolution adopted last August at the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a copy of which I enclose. [See operative paragraph 2.] The text of that resolution was certainly made in consultation with the Portuguese Mission in Geneva and is therefore a true reflection of Portugal's interpretation of the 1982 resolution.

We see a contradiction between this and the formal position of the British Government (along with other western governments). It is not clear to us whether the Portuguese Government pursues this matter with their EC partners; up till now, all efforts on our part to convince the British Government to broaden its interpretation have been unsuccessful. If you could shed any light on this, I would be most grateful.

I also enclose a clipping from the Portuguese press which I mentioned last night to Mrs Andresen-Guimeraes. I should explain that this clipping was given to me by the Indonesian delegation at the UN Human Rights Commission last month, along with a translation. Much of what Bishop Belo says is hardly advantageous to Indonesia, so I can only assume that they gave it to me to show that Bishop Belo is dissatified with the (lack of) response he had received from your government.

It is indeed disturbing to read that President Mario Soares has not yet replied to Bishop Belo's letter of last February. Can that be true? If so,

we would like to ask you to convey to your President our earnest hope that he will respond to Bishop Belo's plea. The Bishop is very isolated and faces enormous pressure from the Indonesian authorities as the enclosed clipping from an Australian newspaper reveals.

We in TAPOL would very much appreciate your assistance in understanding these questions.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Budiardjo